
Metric discrepancy results for geometric progressions perturbed by irrational rotations

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Abstract For $\theta \in (-\infty, -1) \cup (1, \infty)$ and for almost every x , it is known that the sequence $\{\theta^k x\}$ is uniformly distributed modulo 1. The speed of convergence sensitively depends on algebraic nature of θ . In this paper we prove that such dependence vanishes if we perturb the sequence by adding irrational rotation $\{k\gamma\}$. The speed becomes identical with that of uniformly distributed i.i.d.

Keywords discrepancy, lacunary sequence, law of the iterated logarithm.

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1 Introduction

A sequence $\{x_k\}$ of real numbers is said to be uniformly distributed modulo one if

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \mathbf{1}_{[a,b)}(\langle x_k \rangle) = b - a \quad \text{for all } 0 \leq a < b \leq 1,$$

where $\langle x \rangle$ denotes the fractional part $x - [x]$ of real number x and $\mathbf{1}_{[a,b)}$ is the indicator function of $[a, b)$. It is equivalent to the convergence of the empirical distribution $\frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \delta_{\langle x_k \rangle}$ of the sequence $\{x_k\}$ towards the uniform distribution, and the following

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discrepancies are used to measure the speed of convergence;

$$D_N\{x_k\} = \sup_{0 \leq a < b \leq 1} \left| \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \mathbf{1}_{[a,b)}(\langle x_k \rangle) - (b-a) \right|,$$

$$D_N^*\{x_k\} = \sup_{0 \leq a \leq 1} \left| \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \mathbf{1}_{[0,a)}(\langle x_k \rangle) - a \right|.$$

As to the arithmetic progression $\{k\gamma\}$, Bohl [3], Sierpiński [21] and Weyl [25] proved independently that it is uniformly distributed modulo 1 if γ is irrational. Khintchine [17] determined the speed of convergence of discrepancies for almost every γ . See also Kesten [16].

For a sequence $\{U_k\}$ of uniformly distributed i.i.d., Chung [4] and Smirnov [22] determined the speed of convergence by proving the law of the iterated logarithm

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{ND_N\{U_k\}}{\sqrt{2N \log \log N}} = \overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{ND_N^*\{U_k\}}{\sqrt{2N \log \log N}} = \frac{1}{2}, \quad \text{a.s.}$$

Philipp [19] studied the discrepancies $D_N\{n_k x\}$ when $\{n_k\}$ satisfies the Hadamard's gap condition $n_{k+1}/n_k > q > 1$, and proved the bounded law of the iterated logarithm

$$\frac{1}{4\sqrt{2}} \leq \overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{ND_N\{n_k x\}}{\sqrt{2N \log \log N}} \leq C(q) < \infty, \quad \text{a.e. } x, \quad (1)$$

by modifying a technique developed by Takahashi [24].

For geometric progressions, the following exact law of the iterated logarithm was proved in [6, 9]: For any $\theta \in (-\infty, -1) \cup (1, \infty)$ there exist constants Σ_θ and Σ_θ^* such that

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{ND_N\{\theta^k x\}}{\sqrt{2N \log \log N}} = \Sigma_\theta, \quad \overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{ND_N^*\{\theta^k x\}}{\sqrt{2N \log \log N}} = \Sigma_\theta^*, \quad \text{a.e. } x.$$

The concrete value of Σ_θ is determined in some how a complicated way as below (See [6, 7, 9, 10]). One has $\Sigma_\theta = \Sigma_\theta^* = 1/2$ if θ satisfies

$$\theta^r \notin \mathbf{Q} \quad \text{for all } r \in \mathbf{N}. \quad (2)$$

When $\theta^k \in \mathbf{Q}$ for some $k = 1, 2, \dots$, denote

$$\theta^r = p/q \quad (p \in \mathbf{Z}, q \in \mathbf{N}, (p, q) = 1) \text{ where } r = \min\{k \in \mathbf{N} : \theta^k \in \mathbf{Q}\}. \quad (3)$$

In this case, Σ_θ is independent of r and is greater than $1/2$, i.e., $\Sigma_\theta = \Sigma_{p/q} > 1/2$. Here $\Sigma_\theta = \Sigma_\theta^*$ holds if and only if p is positive.

If both p and q are odd, then

$$\Sigma_{p/q} = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{|p|q+1}{|p|q-1}}.$$

If $p/q = \pm 2$, then

$$\Sigma_2 = \frac{1}{9} \sqrt{42} \quad \text{and} \quad \Sigma_{-2} = \frac{1}{49} \sqrt{910}. \quad (4)$$

When pq is even, for p/q with large modulus, or more precisely for p/q belonging to

$$\{p/q : 2 \nmid p, 2 \mid q, |p|/q \geq 9/4\} \cup \{p/q : 2 \mid p, 2 \nmid q, |p|/q \geq 4\} \cup \{\pm 13/6\},$$

the next general formula was proved in [14, 15]:

$$\Sigma_{p/q} = \sqrt{\frac{(|p|q)^I + 1}{(|p|q)^I - 1} v\left(\frac{|p| - q - 1}{2(|p| - q)}\right) + \frac{2(|p|q)^I}{(|p|q)^I - 1} \sum_{m=1}^{I-1} \frac{1}{(|p|q)^m} v\left(q^m \frac{|p| - q - 1}{2(|p| - q)}\right)},$$

where $I = \min\{n \in \mathbf{N} \mid q^n = \pm 1 \pmod{|p| - q}\}$ and $v(x) = \langle x \rangle (1 - \langle x \rangle)$.

Note that the last formula does not necessary hold when modulus of p/q is small. Indeed, the above formula yields $\Sigma_2 = \Sigma_{-2} = \Sigma_{3/2} = \Sigma_{4/3} = 0$ by $v(0) = 0$, the actual values of Σ_2 and Σ_{-2} are as (4), and the actual values of $\Sigma_{3/2}$ and $\Sigma_{4/3}$ are as below (See [11, 14]):

$$\Sigma_{3/2} = \frac{2}{665} \sqrt{\frac{305671451762616889661445636790873}{10314424798490535546171949055}}, \quad \Sigma_{4/3} = \frac{18}{7} \sqrt{\frac{117609}{2985983}}.$$

Besides, examples $\Sigma_{8/3}$, $\Sigma_{10/3}$, $\Sigma_{12/5}$, $\Sigma_{17/8}$, $\Sigma_{19/10}$, $\Sigma_{12/7}$, and $\Sigma_{8/5}$ can be found in [14].

Although the value of Σ_θ , the constant determining the speed of convergence toward the uniform distribution, sensitively depends on algebraic nature of θ , such dependence miraculously vanishes if we perturb the sequence $\{\theta^k x\}$ by adding an irrational rotation $\{k\gamma\}$. Actually the law of the iterated logarithm for discrepancies of $\{\theta^k x + k\gamma\}$ coincides completely with that of the uniformly distributed i.i.d. Now we are in a position to state our main result.

Theorem 1 *If $|\theta| > 1$ and $\gamma \notin \mathbf{Q}$, then*

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{ND_N\{\theta^k x + k\gamma\}}{\sqrt{2N \log \log N}} = \overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{ND_N^*\{\theta^k x + k\gamma\}}{\sqrt{2N \log \log N}} = \frac{1}{2}, \quad a.e. \ x.$$

Moreover if θ satisfies (2), then it holds for every $\gamma \in \mathbf{R}$

After having this result, it is natural to ask whether this phenomenon occurs for every sequence $\{n_k\}$ satisfying the Hadamard's gap condition, i.e., if

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{ND_N\{n_k x + k\gamma\}}{\sqrt{2N \log \log N}} = \overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{ND_N^*\{n_k x + k\gamma\}}{\sqrt{2N \log \log N}} = \frac{1}{2}, \quad a.e. \ x$$

holds or not. Unfortunately the answer is negative as the following counter example shows.

Theorem 2 *There exist a strictly increasing sequence $\{m(k)\}$ of positive integers, an irrational number γ , and real numbers $\Sigma > \Sigma^* > 1/2$ such that*

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{ND_N\{3^{m(k)} x + k\gamma\}}{\sqrt{2N \log \log N}} = \Sigma \quad \text{and} \quad \overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{ND_N^*\{3^{m(k)} x + k\gamma\}}{\sqrt{2N \log \log N}} = \Sigma^*, \quad a.e. \ x.$$

We also have the complex version of Theorem 1. For a sequence $\{z_k\}$ of complex numbers, define the discrepancy by

$$D_N\{z_k\} = \sup_{0 \leq a < a' \leq 1, 0 \leq b < b' \leq 1} \left| \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \mathbf{1}_{[a,b)}(\langle \Re z_k \rangle) \mathbf{1}_{[a',b')}(\langle \Im z_k \rangle) - (b - a)(b' - a') \right|,$$

$$D_N^*\{z_k\} = \sup_{0 \leq a \leq 1, 0 \leq a' \leq 1} \left| \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \mathbf{1}_{[0,a)}(\langle \Re z_k \rangle) \mathbf{1}_{[0,a')}(\langle \Im z_k \rangle) - aa' \right|.$$

In [12], when a complex number θ satisfies $|\theta| > 1$, the law of the iterated logarithm for discrepancies of $\{\theta^k z\}$ was proved. For $\{\theta^k z + k\gamma\}$, we have the following result which can be proved in the same way as Theorem 1 and the main theorem of [12].

Theorem 3 *If $\Re\gamma$ and $\Im\gamma$ are linearly independent over \mathbf{Q} , if $\theta \in \mathbf{C}$, and if $|\theta| > 1$, then*

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{ND_N\{\theta^k z + k\gamma\}}{\sqrt{2N \log \log N}} = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{ND_N^*\{\theta^k z + k\gamma\}}{\sqrt{2N \log \log N}} = \frac{1}{2}, \quad \text{a.e. } z \in \mathbf{C}.$$

Moreover if θ satisfies $\theta^n \notin \mathbf{Q}[\sqrt{-1}]$ for all $n = 1, 2, \dots$, then it holds for every $\gamma \in \mathbf{C}$.

Before closing introduction, we make a remark. We consider any sequence $\{n_k\}$ of real numbers and a uniformly distributed i.i.d. $\{\xi_k\}$ on the probability space $(0, 1)$ equipped with the Borel σ -field and the Lebesgue measure. Then for any $x \in (0, 1)$, the sequence $\{n_k x + \xi_k(\cdot)\}$ is again a uniformly distributed i.i.d., and by Chung-Smirnov result, we have

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{ND_N\{n_k x + \xi_k(y)\}}{\sqrt{2N \log \log N}} = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{ND_N^*\{n_k x + \xi_k(y)\}}{\sqrt{2N \log \log N}} = \frac{1}{2}, \quad (5)$$

for almost every $y \in (0, 1)$. By applying Fubini's theorem, we have (5) for almost every $x \in (0, 1)$, for almost every $y \in (0, 1)$. It means that for any sequence $\{n_k\}$, there exist sequences $\{a_k\}$ such that

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{ND_N\{n_k x + a_k\}}{\sqrt{2N \log \log N}} = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{ND_N^*\{n_k x + a_k\}}{\sqrt{2N \log \log N}} = \frac{1}{2}, \quad \text{a.e. } x.$$

By this argument, we cannot determine concrete sequence $\{a_k\}$ such that the above law of the iterated logarithm holds. Our result asserts that the sequence $\{k\gamma\}$ is such a concrete example. It is interesting that the discrepancies of the sequence $\{k\gamma\}$ behaves in completely different manner as compared to $\{\xi_k\}$, i.e., $ND_N\{k\gamma\} = O((\log N)^{1+\epsilon})$ for almost every γ for any $\epsilon > 0$ ([17]). We thank the anonymous referee for this valuable remark.

2 Preliminary

Put $e_x(\nu) = \exp(2\pi\sqrt{-1}\nu x)$. In this section f denotes a trigonometric polynomial with degree d and period 1 satisfying $\int_0^1 f = 0$ whose Fourier expansion is given by

$$f(x) = \sum_{\nu=1}^d (a_\nu \cos 2\pi\nu x + b_\nu \sin 2\pi\nu x) = \sum_{1 \leq |\nu| \leq d} c_\nu e_x(\nu). \quad (6)$$

Lemma 4 *Let f be a function given by (6), $\{\gamma_k\}$ be an arbitrary sequence of real numbers, A be any real number, and $\{n_k\}$ be a sequence of real numbers satisfying the generalized Hadamard's gap condition*

$$|n_1| \geq 1, \quad |n_{k+1}/n_k| > q > 1 \quad (k = 1, 2, \dots). \quad (7)$$

Then there exists a constant C_q depending only on q such that

$$\int_A^{A+1} \left(\sum_{k=M+1}^{M+N} f(n_k x + \gamma_k) \right)^4 dx \leq C_q \left(\sum_{\nu=1}^d (|a_\nu| + |b_\nu|) \right)^4 N^2.$$

Proof Clearly it is enough to prove for $A = 0$. By applying the triangle inequality, we see that the L^4 -norm of $\sum_{k=M+1}^{M+N} f(n_k \cdot + \gamma_k)$ is bounded from above by

$$\sum_{\nu=1}^d \left(|a_\nu| \left\| \sum_{k=M+1}^{M+N} \cos 2\pi\nu(n_k \cdot + \gamma_k) \right\|_4 + |b_\nu| \left\| \sum_{k=M+1}^{M+N} \sin 2\pi\nu(n_k \cdot + \gamma_k) \right\|_4 \right)$$

When $\{n_k\}$ is a non-negative sequence satisfying Hadamard's gap condition, we proved (Lemma 1 (1) of [5]) that there exists a constant C_q depending only on q such that

$$\int_0^1 \left(\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} (\alpha_j \cos 2\pi n_j x + \beta_j \sin 2\pi n_j x) \right)^4 dx \leq C_q \left(\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} (\alpha_j^2 + \beta_j^2) \right)^2. \quad (8)$$

For general $\{n_k\}$, by noting the relation

$$\alpha_j \cos 2\pi n_j x + \beta_j \sin 2\pi n_j x = \alpha_j \cos 2\pi |n_j| x + (\pm \beta_j) \sin 2\pi |n_j| x,$$

we see that (8) is valid under the generalized Hadamard's gap condition. Hence

$$\left\| \sum_{k=M+1}^{M+N} \cos 2\pi\nu(n_k \cdot + \gamma_k) \right\|_4^4 \vee \left\| \sum_{k=M+1}^{M+N} \sin 2\pi\nu(n_k \cdot + \gamma_k) \right\|_4^4 \leq C_q N^2.$$

By combining these, we have the conclusion. \square

Lemma 5 *Let g be a bounded measurable function with period 1 satisfying $\int_0^1 g = 0$. For all $a < b$ and $\lambda \neq 0$, we have*

$$\left| \int_a^b g(\lambda x) dx \right| \leq \frac{\|g\|_\infty}{|\lambda|}.$$

Proof It is enough to prove by assuming $\lambda > 0$. By changing variables $y = \lambda x$, the integral is expressed as below and the above inequality is proved:

$$\frac{1}{\lambda} \int_{\lambda a}^{\lambda b} g(y) dy = \frac{1}{\lambda} \sum_{k=0}^{[\lambda(b-a)]-1} \int_{\lambda a+k}^{\lambda a+k+1} g(y) dy + \frac{1}{\lambda} \int_{\lambda a+[\lambda(b-a)]}^{\lambda b} g(y) dy. \quad \square$$

For a measurable function g , we define the mean value $\int_{\mathbf{R}} g(x) \mu_R(dx)$ by

$$\int_{\mathbf{R}} g(x) \mu_R(dx) = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2T} \int_{-T}^T g(x) dx$$

if the limit on the right hand side exists. If g is bounded and if the mean value of g exists, then

$$\int_{\mathbf{R}} g(x + \gamma) \mu_R(dx) = \int_{\mathbf{R}} g(x) \mu_R(dx) \quad (\gamma \in \mathbf{R}), \quad (9)$$

$$\int_{\mathbf{R}} g(\Theta x) \mu_R(dx) = \int_{\mathbf{R}} g(x) \mu_R(dx) \quad (\Theta \neq 0). \quad (10)$$

For trigonometric polynomials g and h with period 1 satisfying $\int_0^1 g = 0$, we have

$$\int_{\mathbf{R}} g(\Theta x) h(x) \mu_R(dx) = 0, \quad (11)$$

$$\int_{\mathbf{R}} g((P/Q)x) h(x) \mu_R(dx) = \int_{\mathbf{R}} g(Px) h(Qx) \mu_R(dx) = \int_0^1 g(Px) h(Qx) dx, \quad (12)$$

for $\Theta \notin \mathbf{Q}$ and $P, Q \in \mathbf{Z}^\times$.

Lemma 6 *Let $|\theta| > 1$ and $\gamma \notin \mathbf{Q}$. For a trigonometric polynomial f with period 1 satisfying $\int_0^1 f = 0$, we have*

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{M \in \mathbf{N}} \left| \int_{\mathbf{R}} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{k=M+1}^{M+N} f(\theta^k x + k\gamma) \right)^2 \mu_R(dx) - \|f\|_2^2 \right| = 0, \quad (13)$$

where $\|f\|_2^2 = \int_0^1 f^2(x) dx$. In case when (2) is satisfied, (13) is valid for all $\gamma \in \mathbf{R}$.

Proof First we apply (10) and expand the square in the following way

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbf{R}} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{k=M+1}^{M+N} f(\theta^k x + k\gamma) \right)^2 \mu_R(dx) &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \int_{\mathbf{R}} f^2(\theta^k x + (k+M)\gamma) \mu_R(dx) \\ &\quad + 2 \sum_{l=1}^{N-1} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^{N-l} \int_{\mathbf{R}} f(\theta^k x + (k+M)\gamma) f(\theta^{k+l} x + (k+M+l)\gamma) \mu_R(dx) \\ &=: J_1(M, N) + J_2(M, N). \end{aligned}$$

By applying (10) and (9), we have

$$J_1(M, N) = \int_{\mathbf{R}} f^2(x) \mu_R(dx) = \int_0^1 f^2(x) dx.$$

By applying (10) we see that the summand in $J_2(M, N)$ equals to

$$\int_{\mathbf{R}} f(x + (k+M)\gamma) f(\theta^l x + (k+M+l)\gamma) \mu_R(dx), \quad (14)$$

and (11) shows that it equals to zero if $\theta^l \notin \mathbf{Q}$. Hence (13) is proved when (2) is satisfied.

Secondly we assume (3). Then (14) equals to zero if l is not a multiple of r . By putting $l = rm$ and applying (12) we see that $J_2(M, N)$ equals to

$$\begin{aligned} &2 \sum_{1 \leq m \leq (N-1)/r} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^{N-l} \int_0^1 f(q^m x + (k+M)\gamma) f(p^m x + (k+M+rm)\gamma) dx \\ &= 2 \sum_{m, \nu, \nu'} c_\nu c_{\nu'} e_\gamma((\nu + \nu')M + \nu' rm) \left(\int_0^1 e_x(\nu q^m + \nu' p^m) dx \right) \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^{N-l} e_\gamma((\nu + \nu')k). \end{aligned}$$

Hence we have the next estimate where the right hand side is independent of M :

$$|J_2(M, N)| \leq 2 \sum_{m, \nu, \nu'} |c_\nu c_{\nu'}| \left| \int_0^1 e_x(\nu q^m + \nu' p^m) dx \right| \left| \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^{N-l} e_\gamma((\nu + \nu')k) \right|.$$

Since ν and ν' vary in a finite set, we have $\nu q^m + \nu' p^m \neq 0$ and $\int_0^1 e_x(\nu q^m + \nu' p^m) dx = 0$ except for finitely many m . Hence the summation for (m, ν, ν') is a finite sum. When $\nu q^m + \nu' p^m = 0$ we have $\nu + \nu' \neq 0$ which implies

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^{N-l} e_\gamma((\nu + \nu')k) = 0,$$

since $\gamma \notin \mathbf{Q}$. Hence (13) is proved. \square

Lemma 7 Put $C = \min(\{(\log_{|\theta|} \nu - \log_{|\theta|} \nu')^* \mid \nu, \nu' = 1, \dots, d, \} \setminus \{0\}) \in (0, 1/2]$ and $D = (|\theta|^C - 1) \wedge 2 > 0$, where $\langle x \rangle^* = \min_{n \in \mathbf{Z}} |x - n|$. Then for any $L \in \mathbf{N}$, we have

$$|\theta^k \nu + \theta^l \nu'| \geq D|\theta|^L \quad \text{if } k, l \geq L, \quad |\nu|, |\nu'| \leq d, \quad \theta^k \nu + \theta^l \nu' \neq 0. \quad (15)$$

Proof If $\theta^k \nu \theta^l \nu' > 0$, then $|\theta^k \nu + \theta^l \nu'| = |\theta^k \nu| + |\theta^l \nu'| \geq 2|\theta|^L \geq D|\theta|^L$. Assume that $\theta^k \nu \theta^l \nu' < 0$. By $\theta^k \nu + \theta^l \nu' \neq 0$, we have $|\theta^k \nu| \neq |\theta^l \nu'|$. When $\log_{|\theta|} |\nu| - \log_{|\theta|} |\nu'| \notin \mathbf{Z}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\log_{|\theta|} |\theta^k \nu| - \log_{|\theta|} |\theta^l \nu'|| &= |(k-l) + (\log_{|\theta|} |\nu| - \log_{|\theta|} |\nu'|)| \\ &\geq \langle \log_{|\theta|} |\nu| - \log_{|\theta|} |\nu'| \rangle^* \geq C. \end{aligned}$$

If $\log_{|\theta|} |\nu| - \log_{|\theta|} |\nu'| \in \mathbf{Z}$, by $|\theta^k \nu| \neq |\theta^l \nu'|$ we see that $\log_{|\theta|} |\theta^k \nu| - \log_{|\theta|} |\theta^l \nu'|$ is a non-zero integer and $|\log_{|\theta|} |\theta^k \nu| - \log_{|\theta|} |\theta^l \nu'|| \geq 1 \geq C$. When $|\theta^k \nu| > |\theta^l \nu'|$, we have $|\theta^k \nu / \theta^l \nu'| \geq |\theta|^C$ and hence $|\theta^k \nu + \theta^l \nu'| = |\theta^k \nu| - |\theta^l \nu'| \geq (|\theta|^C - 1)|\theta^l \nu'| \geq D|\theta|^L$. When $|\theta^k \nu| \leq |\theta^l \nu'|$, we have $|\theta^l \nu' / \theta^k \nu| \geq |\theta|^C$ and hence $|\theta^k \nu + \theta^l \nu'| = |\theta^l \nu'| - |\theta^k \nu| \geq (|\theta|^C - 1)|\theta^k \nu| \geq D|\theta|^L$. \square

3 Martingale Approximation

In this section, we prove the following law of the iterated logarithm.

Proposition 8 Let f be a trigonometric polynomial with period 1 satisfying $\int_0^1 f = 0$. For a real number θ with $|\theta| > 1$ and $\gamma \notin \mathbf{Q}$, we have

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2N \log \log N}} \sum_{k=1}^N f(\theta^k x + k\gamma) = \|f\|_2, \quad \text{a.e. } x. \quad (16)$$

The proof is by martingale approximation, which is a simplification of the proof given by Aistleitner [1] and originated with Berkes [2] and Philipp-Stout [20].

Although we can prove (16) on $[A, A+1)$ for any A , we prove it on $[0, 1)$ for simplicity.

We divide \mathbf{N} into consecutive blocks $\Delta'_1, \Delta_1, \Delta'_2, \Delta_2, \dots$ satisfying $\# \Delta'_i = \lceil 9 \log_{|\theta|} i \rceil$ and $\# \Delta_i = i$. By putting $i^- = \min \Delta_i$ and $i^+ = \max \Delta_i$, we have

$$|\theta^{i^-} / \theta^{(i-1)^+}| \geq |\theta|^{\lceil 9 \log_{|\theta|} i \rceil} = i^9.$$

We denote $\mu(i) = \lceil \log_2 i^4 |\theta^{i^+}| \rceil + 1$ and introduce a σ -field \mathcal{F}_i on $[0, 1)$ defined by

$$\mathcal{F}_i = \sigma\{[j2^{-\mu(i)}, (j+1)2^{-\mu(i)}) \mid j = 0, \dots, 2^{\mu(i)} - 1\}.$$

Note that $i^4 |\theta^{i^+}| \leq 2^{\mu(i)} \leq 2i^4 |\theta^{i^+}|$. Set

$$T_i(x) = \sum_{k \in \Delta_i} f(\theta^k x + k\gamma), \quad T'_i(x) = \sum_{k \in \Delta'_i} f(\theta^k x + k\gamma), \quad Y_i = E(T_i \mid \mathcal{F}_i) - E(T_i \mid \mathcal{F}_{i-1}).$$

Clearly $\{Y_i, \mathcal{F}_i\}$ forms a martingale difference sequence. We prove

$$\|Y_i - T_i\|_\infty \leq (\|f'\|_\infty + 2\|f\|_\infty)/i^3, \quad (17)$$

$$\|Y_i^2 - T_i^2\|_\infty \leq 3\|f\|_\infty(\|f'\|_\infty + 2\|f\|_\infty)/i^2, \quad (18)$$

$$\|Y_i^4 - T_i^4\|_\infty \leq 15\|f\|_\infty^3(\|f'\|_\infty + 2\|f\|_\infty). \quad (19)$$

For $k \in \Delta_i$ and $x \in I = [j2^{-\mu(i)}, (j+1)2^{-\mu(i)}) \in \mathcal{F}_i$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |f(\theta^k x + k\gamma) - E(f(\theta^k \cdot + k\gamma) \mid \mathcal{F}_i)| &= \left| |I|^{-1} \int_I (f(\theta^k x + k\gamma) - f(\theta^k y + k\gamma)) dy \right| \\ &\leq \max_{y \in I} |f(\theta^k x + k\gamma) - f(\theta^k y + k\gamma)| \leq \|f'\|_\infty |\theta^k| 2^{-\mu(i)} \leq \|f'\|_\infty |\theta^k| / |\theta^{i^+}| i^4 \\ &\leq \|f'\|_\infty / i^4, \end{aligned}$$

and hence we have

$$|T_i - E(T_i \mid \mathcal{F}_i)| \leq \|f'\|_\infty \# \Delta_i / i^4 = \|f'\|_\infty / i^3.$$

On $J = [j2^{-\mu(i-1)}, (j+1)2^{-\mu(i-1)}) \in \mathcal{F}_{i-1}$, by Lemma 5 we have

$$\begin{aligned} |E(f(\theta^k \cdot + k\gamma) \mid \mathcal{F}_{i-1})| &= \left| |J|^{-1} \int_J f(\theta^k y + k\gamma) dy \right| \\ &\leq \|f(\cdot + k\gamma)\|_\infty 2^{\mu(i-1)} / |\theta^k| \leq \|f\|_\infty 2(i-1)^4 |\theta^{(i-1)^+}| / \theta^{i^-} \leq 2\|f\|_\infty / i^5, \end{aligned}$$

and hence we have

$$|E(T_i \mid \mathcal{F}_{i-1})| \leq 2\|f\|_\infty \# \Delta_i / i^5 = 2\|f\|_\infty / i^4,$$

which shows (17).

By $\|T_i\|_\infty \leq i\|f\|_\infty$, we have $\|E(T_i \mid \mathcal{F}_i)\|_\infty, \|E(T_i \mid \mathcal{F}_{i-1})\|_\infty \leq i\|f\|_\infty$, which imply $\|Y_i\|_\infty \leq 2i\|f\|_\infty$ and $\|Y_i + T_i\|_\infty \leq 3i\|f\|_\infty$. Similarly we have $\|Y_i^2 + T_i^2\|_\infty \leq 5i^2\|f\|_\infty^2$. By applying these to $\|Y_i^2 - T_i^2\|_\infty \leq \|Y_i - T_i\|_\infty \|Y_i + T_i\|_\infty$ and $\|Y_i^4 - T_i^4\|_\infty \leq \|Y_i^2 - T_i^2\|_\infty \|Y_i^2 + T_i^2\|_\infty$, we have (18) and (19).

Expanding T_i^2 into a trigonometric polynomial, $v_i = \int_{\mathbf{R}} T_i^2(x) \mu_R(dx)$ gives its constant term. Hence $T_i^2 - v_i$ has the trigonometric polynomial expansion

$$\sum_{k, l \in \Delta_i} \sum_{\nu, \nu': \nu\theta^k + \nu'\theta^l \neq 0} c_\nu c_{\nu'} \exp\left(2\pi\sqrt{-1}((\nu\theta^k + \nu'\theta^l)x + (\nu k + \nu l)\gamma)\right).$$

By applying Lemma 7 and Lemma 5, we have

$$|E(T_i^2 - v_i \mid \mathcal{F}_{i-1})| \leq \left(\sum_\nu |c_\nu|\right)^2 i^2 \frac{2^{\mu(i-1)}}{D|\theta^{i^-}|} = O\left(i^2(i-1)^4 \frac{\theta^{(i-1)^+}}{\theta^{i^-}}\right) = O\left(\frac{1}{i^3}\right).$$

By putting $\beta_M = \sum_{i=1}^M v_i$, we have

$$\left\| \sum_{i=1}^M E(T_i^2 \mid \mathcal{F}_{i-1}) - \beta_M \right\|_\infty = O(1). \quad (20)$$

Denote $V_M = \sum_{i=1}^M E(Y_i^2 \mid \mathcal{F}_{i-1})$. By (18), we see

$$\left\| \sum_{i=1}^M (E(Y_i^2 \mid \mathcal{F}_{i-1}) - E(T_i^2 \mid \mathcal{F}_{i-1})) \right\|_\infty = O(1) \quad \text{and} \quad \|V_M - \beta_M\|_\infty = O(1). \quad (21)$$

Denote $l_M = M(M+1)/2$. By Lemma 6 we have $v_i \sim i\|f\|_2^2$ and

$$\beta_M \sim l_M \|f\|_2^2. \quad (22)$$

By these we see that there exists M_0 such that $V_M \geq l_M \|f\|_2^2/2$ for $M \geq M_0$. By Lemma 4 we have $ET_i^4 = O(i^2)$, and by (19) we have $EY_i^4 = O(i^2)$.

We use the next theorem by Monrad-Philipp [18], which is a version of Strassen's theorem [23].

Theorem 9 *Suppose that a square integrable martingale difference sequence $\{Y_i, \mathcal{F}_i\}$ satisfies*

$$V_M = \sum_{i=1}^M E(Y_i^2 \mid \mathcal{F}_{i-1}) \rightarrow \infty \text{ a.s.} \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{i=1}^\infty E\left(\frac{Y_i^2 \mathbf{1}_{\{Y_i^2 \geq \psi(V_i)\}}}{\psi(V_i)}\right) < \infty$$

for some non-decreasing function ψ with $\psi(x) \rightarrow \infty$ ($x \rightarrow \infty$) such that $\psi(x)(\log x)^\alpha/x$ is non-increasing for some $\alpha > 50$. If there exists a uniformly distributed random variable U which is independent of $\{Y_n\}$, there exists a standard normal i.i.d. $\{Z_i\}$ such that

$$\sum_{i \geq 1} Y_i \mathbf{1}_{\{V_i \leq t\}} = \sum_{i \leq t} Z_i + o(t^{1/2}(\psi(t)/t)^{1/50}), \quad (t \rightarrow \infty) \quad \text{a.s.}$$

To apply this theorem, we prepare a probability space (Ω, \mathcal{G}, P) on which a uniformly distributed random variable U is defined. We regard the product $[0, 1] \times \Omega$ as a probability space in natural manner and consider a filtration $\{\mathcal{F}_n \otimes \mathcal{G}\}$. We here abuse notation and denote by E the expectation on $[0, 1] \times \Omega$, denote $\mathcal{F}_n \otimes \mathcal{G}$ simply by \mathcal{F}_n , and regard $\{T_n\}$, $\{Y_n\}$ and U as defined on $[0, 1] \times \Omega$. Then $\{Y_i, \mathcal{F}_n\}$ is a martingale difference sequence which is independent of U , and the estimates so far we have proved are still valid.

Hence by putting $\psi(x) = x/(\log x)^{51}$, we have

$$\sum_{i \geq M_0} E\left(\frac{Y_i^2 \mathbf{1}_{\{Y_i^2 \geq \psi(V_i)\}}}{\psi(V_i)}\right) \leq \sum_i \frac{EY_i^4}{\psi^2(l_i \|f\|_2^2/2)} = O\left(\sum_i \frac{i^2 (\log l_i)^{102}}{l_i^2}\right) < \infty.$$

By (21) and $V_M - V_{M-1} = \beta_M - \beta_{M-1} + O(1) = v_M + O(1) \rightarrow \infty$, we have $V_{M-1} < \beta_M < V_{M+1}$ for large M . Hence $V_i \leq \beta_M$ is equivalent to $i \leq M-1$ or $i \leq M$. By $\|Y_i\|_\infty = O(i)$ we have

$$\sum_{i \geq 1} Y_i \mathbf{1}_{\{V_i \leq \beta_M\}} = \sum_{k=1}^M Y_k + O(M) = \sum_{k=1}^M Y_k + o(\phi_{l_M}),$$

where $\phi_x = \sqrt{2x \log \log x}$.

By (22) we have $\beta_M = O(l_M)$. By applying Theorem 9 and putting $t = \beta_M$, we have

$$\sum_{k=1}^M Y_k = \sum_{i \geq 1} Y_i \mathbf{1}_{\{V_i \leq \beta_M\}} + o(\phi_{l_M}) = \sum_{i \leq \beta_M} Z_i + o(\phi_{l_M}), \quad \text{a.s.}$$

Hence by the law of the iterated logarithm we have

$$\overline{\lim}_{M \rightarrow \infty} \phi_{l_M}^{-1} \left| \sum_{k=1}^M Y_k \right| = \|f\|_2, \quad (23)$$

for almost every $(x, \omega) \in [0, 1) \times \Omega$. By Fubini's theorem, there exists an ω such that (23) holds for almost every x . Since the left hand side of (23) is independent of ω , we see that (23) holds for almost every x . By noting (17), we have

$$\overline{\lim}_{M \rightarrow \infty} \phi_{l_M}^{-1} \left| \sum_{k=1}^M T_k \right| = \overline{\lim}_{M \rightarrow \infty} \phi_{l_M}^{-1} \left| \sum_{k=1}^M Y_k \right| = \|f\|_2, \quad \text{a.e. } x \quad (24)$$

By applying (4), $\sum_{i=1}^M [9 \log_{|\theta|} i] = O(M \log M)$, and Beppo-Levi theorem, we have

$$E \left(\left| M^{-7/8} \sum_{k=1}^M T'_k \right|^4 \right) = O(M^{-3/2} (\log M)^2) \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{M=1}^{\infty} \left| M^{-7/8} \sum_{k=1}^M T'_k \right|^4 < \infty \quad \text{a.e. } x,$$

and hence

$$\left| \sum_{k=1}^M T'_k \right| = o(M^{7/8}) \quad \text{and} \quad \overline{\lim}_{M \rightarrow \infty} \phi_{l_M}^{-1} \left| \sum_{k=1}^M T'_k \right| = 0, \quad \text{a.e. } x.$$

Therefore, by $M^+ = l_M + \sum_{i=1}^M [9 \log_{|\theta|} i] \sim l_M$, and (24), we have

$$\overline{\lim}_{M \rightarrow \infty} \phi_{M^+}^{-1} \left| \sum_{i=1}^M \sum_{k \in \Delta'_i \cup \Delta_i} f(\theta^k x) \right| = \|f\|_2, \quad \text{a.e. } x.$$

Moreover we have $\sum_{k \in \Delta'_M \cup \Delta_M} \|f(\theta^k \cdot)\|_{\infty} = o(\phi_{M^+})$ and (16).

4 LIL for discrepancies

To begin with, for $a, b, x \in \mathbf{R}$ satisfying $0 \leq b - a \leq 1$, we put

$$\mathbf{I}_{a,b}(x) = \sum_{n \in \mathbf{Z}} \mathbf{1}_{[a,b)}(x+n) \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{\mathbf{I}}_{a,b}(x) = \mathbf{I}_{a,b}(x) - (b-a).$$

We see $\tilde{\mathbf{I}}_{a,b} = \mathbf{1}_{[\langle a \rangle, \langle b \rangle)} - (b-a)$ if $\langle a \rangle \leq \langle b \rangle$, and $\tilde{\mathbf{I}}_{a,b} = -\mathbf{1}_{[\langle b \rangle, \langle a \rangle)} + (b-a)$ otherwise. Therefore we have

$$D_N\{x_k\} = \sup_{a,b: 0 \leq b-a \leq 1} \frac{1}{N} \left| \sum_{k=1}^N \tilde{\mathbf{I}}_{a,b}(x_k) \right| \quad \text{and} \quad D_N^*\{x_k\} = \sup_{0 \leq a \leq 1} \frac{1}{N} \left| \sum_{k=1}^N \tilde{\mathbf{I}}_{0,a}(x_k) \right|.$$

By this expression of $D_N\{x_k\}$, we can verify

$$D_N\{x_k + t\} = D_N\{x_k\}, \quad \text{and hence } D_N\{(2k-1)\gamma\}_{k>M} = D_N\{(2k-1)\gamma\}_{k\geq 1}. \quad (25)$$

We can easily prove the proposition below by following the proof given in [13] in which the case when $\gamma_k \equiv 0$ is proved. Recall that $\phi_x = \sqrt{2x \log \log x}$.

Proposition 10 *Let $\{n_k\}$ be a sequence of real numbers satisfying the generalized Hadamard's gap condition (7), let $\{\gamma_k\}$ be a sequence of real numbers, and ϖ be a permutation of \mathbf{N} , i.e., a bijection $\mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$. Then for a dense countable $S \subset [0, 1)$, we have*

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \phi_N^{-1} N D_N\{n_{\varpi(k)}x + \gamma_{\varpi(k)}\} &= \sup_{S \ni a < b \in S} \overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \phi_N^{-1} \left| \sum_{k=1}^N \tilde{\mathbf{I}}_{a,b}(n_{\varpi(k)}x + \gamma_{\varpi(k)}) \right|, \\ \overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \phi_N^{-1} N D_N^*\{n_{\varpi(k)}x + \gamma_{\varpi(k)}\} &= \sup_{a \in S} \overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \phi_N^{-1} \left| \sum_{k=1}^N \tilde{\mathbf{I}}_{0,a}(n_{\varpi(k)}x + \gamma_{\varpi(k)}) \right|, \end{aligned}$$

for almost every $x \in \mathbf{R}$. Denote the d -th subsum of the Fourier series of $\tilde{\mathbf{I}}_{a,b}$ by $\tilde{\mathbf{I}}_{a,b;d}$. Then

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \phi_N^{-1} \left| \sum_{k=1}^N \tilde{\mathbf{I}}_{a,b}(n_{\varpi(k)}x + \gamma_{\varpi(k)}) \right| = \lim_{d \rightarrow \infty} \overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \phi_N^{-1} \left| \sum_{k=1}^N \tilde{\mathbf{I}}_{a,b;d}(n_{\varpi(k)}x + \gamma_{\varpi(k)}) \right|$$

for almost every $x \in \mathbf{R}$.

By noting $\|\tilde{\mathbf{I}}_{a,b;d}\|_2 \rightarrow \|\tilde{\mathbf{I}}_{a,b}\|_2 = \sqrt{(b-a)(1-(b-a))}$ as $d \rightarrow \infty$, by applying (16) for $\tilde{\mathbf{I}}_{a,b;d}$, and by using Proposition 10, we have

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \phi_N^{-1} (N) N D_N\{n_k x + k\gamma\} = \sup_{S \ni a < b \in S} \sqrt{(b-a)(1-(b-a))} = 1/2, \quad \text{a.e. } x.$$

Thus we have proved the first part of Theorem 1. The second part can be proved similarly.

5 Construction of a counter example

In [9], we have proved the following. For relatively prime integers μ and ν , and for $0 \leq b-a \leq 1$, $0 \leq b'-a' \leq 1$, we have

$$\int_0^1 \tilde{\mathbf{I}}_{a,b}(\mu t) \tilde{\mathbf{I}}_{a',b'}(\nu t) dt = \frac{\tilde{V}(\langle \nu a \rangle, \langle \nu b \rangle, \langle \mu a' \rangle, \langle \mu b' \rangle)}{\mu \nu}. \quad (26)$$

(There are typographical errors in the expression of this formula in [9] and (26) is the right form.). Here the function \tilde{V} is defined as

$$V(\xi, x) = \xi \wedge x - \xi x \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{V}(\xi, \eta, x, y) = V(\xi, x) + V(\eta, y) - V(\eta, x) - V(\xi, y).$$

We already proved in [9] the second inequality of the next formula.

$$-V(\langle \eta - \xi \rangle, \langle \eta - \xi \rangle) \leq \tilde{V}(\langle x \rangle, \langle y \rangle, \langle \xi \rangle, \langle \eta \rangle) \leq V(\langle \eta - \xi \rangle, \langle \eta - \xi \rangle). \quad (27)$$

The first inequality is proved in the following way by using the second inequality.

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{V}(\langle x \rangle, \langle y \rangle, \langle \xi \rangle, \langle \eta \rangle) &= -\tilde{V}(\langle x \rangle, \langle y \rangle, \langle \eta \rangle, \langle \xi \rangle) \geq -V(\langle \xi - \eta \rangle, \langle \xi - \eta \rangle) \\ &= -V(1 - \langle \eta - \xi \rangle, 1 - \langle \eta - \xi \rangle) = -V(\langle \eta - \xi \rangle, \langle \eta - \xi \rangle).\end{aligned}$$

Assume that $2\gamma \in (1/8, 7/8)$. If $\langle (2k-1)\gamma \rangle \in [0, 1/8]$, then $\langle (2k+1)\gamma \rangle \in (1/8, 1)$ and $\langle (2k+1)\gamma \rangle \notin [0, 1/8]$. Put $K = \{k : \langle (2k-1)\gamma \rangle \in [0, 1/8]\}$. We have proved that $k \in K$ implies $k+1 \notin K$. Define a sequence $\{m(k)\}$ of positive integers by $m(1) = 1$, $m(k+1) = m(k) + 1$ for $k \in K$, and $m(k+1) = m(k) + k$ for $k \notin K$. Clearly we have $m(k) + k < m(k+2) < \dots$.

When letting $d \rightarrow \infty$, by L^2 -convergence $\tilde{\mathbf{I}}_{a,b;d} \rightarrow \tilde{\mathbf{I}}_{a,b}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma^2(a, b; d) &:= \int_0^1 \tilde{\mathbf{I}}_{a,b;d}^2(x) dx + 2 \int_0^{1/8} dt \int_0^1 \tilde{\mathbf{I}}_{a,b;d}(x) \tilde{\mathbf{I}}_{a,b;d}(3x-t) dx \\ &\rightarrow \int_0^1 \tilde{\mathbf{I}}_{a,b}^2(x) dx + 2 \int_0^{1/8} dt \int_0^1 \tilde{\mathbf{I}}_{a,b}(x) \tilde{\mathbf{I}}_{a+t,b+t}(3x) dx \\ &= \tilde{V}(\langle a \rangle, \langle b \rangle, \langle a \rangle, \langle b \rangle) + \frac{2}{3} \int_0^{1/8} \tilde{V}(\langle 3a \rangle, \langle 3b \rangle, \langle a+t \rangle, \langle b+t \rangle) dt =: \sigma^2(a, b)\end{aligned}$$

By (27) and $\tilde{V}(\langle a \rangle, \langle b \rangle, \langle a \rangle, \langle b \rangle) = V(\langle b-a \rangle, \langle b-a \rangle)$, we have

$$\sigma^2(a, b) \geq V(\langle b-a \rangle, \langle b-a \rangle) - \frac{2}{3} \int_0^{1/8} V(\langle b-a \rangle, \langle b-a \rangle) dt.$$

Thus, for any $0 \leq a < b \leq 1$, we have $\sigma(a, b) > 0$ and hence $\sigma(a, b; d) > 0$ for large enough d . Here after we denote $\tilde{\mathbf{I}}_{a,b;d}$ simply by f_d . Note that the frequencies of $f_d(3^{m(k)}x + k\gamma)$ belong to $[3^{m(k)}, d3^{m(k)}]$. For $k' > k > \log_3 d$, by $d3^{m(k)} < 3^{m(k)+k}$, we have

$$\int_0^1 f_d(3^{m(k)}x + k\gamma) f_d(3^{m(k')}x + k'\gamma) dx = 0$$

if $k+2 \leq k'$ or if $k \notin K$. Hence for $M \geq \log_3 d$, we see

$$\begin{aligned}I(M, N) &:= \int_{\mathbf{R}} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{k=M+1}^{M+N} f_d(3^{m(k)}x + k\gamma) \right)^2 \mu_R(dx) \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=M+1}^{M+N} \int_0^1 f_d^2(3^{m(k)}x + k\gamma) dx \\ &\quad + \frac{2}{N} \sum_{k=M+1}^{M+N-1} \int_0^1 f_d(3^{m(k)}x + k\gamma) f_d(3^{m(k+1)}x + (k+1)\gamma) dx \\ &= \int_0^1 f_d^2(x) dx + \frac{2}{N} \sum_{k=M+1}^{M+N-1} h((2k-1)\gamma),\end{aligned}$$

by changing variable $y = 3^{m(k)}x + k\gamma$, where $h(t) := \mathbf{1}_{[0, 1/8]}(\langle t \rangle) \int_0^1 f_d(y) f_d(3y-t) dy$.

By noting $\int_0^1 f_d^2 + 2 \int_0^1 h = \sigma^2(a, b; d)$ and by applying Koksma's inequality and (25) we have

$$|I(M, N) - \sigma^2(a, b; d)| \leq V(h) D_N \{(2k-1)\gamma\}_{k \geq M} = V(h) D_N \{(2k-1)\gamma\}_{k \geq 1} \rightarrow 0$$

and hence $I(M, N) \rightarrow \sigma^2(a, b; d)$ uniformly in $M \geq \log_3 d$. By applying triangle inequality, we see that $I(M, N) \rightarrow \sigma^2(a, b; d)$ holds for $M < \log_3 d$, and hence uniformly in $M \geq 1$.

In the same way as the proof of Proposition 8, we can prove

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2N \log \log N}} \sum_{k=1}^N f_d(\theta^{m(k)} x + k\gamma) = \sigma(a, b; d), \quad \text{a.e.}$$

As before, by applying Proposition 10, we can prove the equalities in Theorem 2 with

$$\Sigma = \sup_{S \ni a < b \in S} \sigma(a, b) \quad \text{and} \quad \Sigma^* = \sup_{b \in S} \sigma(0, b).$$

To calculate Σ^* , we investigate $\sigma^2(0, b)$. Firstly we consider the case $3/8 < b < 1/2$. For $t \in (0, 1/8)$, we have $\langle t \rangle = t$, $\langle 3b \rangle = 3b - 1$, $t < 1/8 < 3b - 1$ and $3b - 1 < b + t$. Hence

$$\tilde{V}(\langle 0 \rangle, \langle 3b \rangle, \langle t \rangle, \langle b + t \rangle) = -t + (1 - b)(3b - 1)$$

and $\sigma^2(0, b) = -(5/4)b^2 + (4/3)b - 17/128$. We see that $\sigma^2(0, b)$ is increasing in $b \in (3/8, 1/2)$.

Secondly we consider the case $1/2 \leq b < 2/3$. Since $b + t \leq 3b - 1$ if and only if $t \leq 2b - 1$, we have

$$\tilde{V}(\langle 0 \rangle, \langle 3b \rangle, \langle t \rangle, \langle b + t \rangle) = \begin{cases} b - b(3b - 1) & (t \leq 2b - 1), \\ (3b - 1 - t) - b(3b - 1) & (t \geq 2b - 1). \end{cases}$$

In case $b < 9/16$, by noting $2b - 1 \leq 1/8$ we have $\sigma^2(0, b) = -(31/12)b^2 + (8/3)b - 27/64$, which has maximum at $16/31 \in (1/2, 9/16)$ taking the value $\sigma^2(0, 16/31) = 1585/5952$. In case $9/16 \leq b$, we have $\sigma^2(0, b) = -(5/4)b^2 + (7/6)b$, which is decreasing in $[9/16, 2/3]$.

By applying (27), we have $\sigma^2(0, b) \leq (13/12)b(1 - b) =: h(b)$. Since we can verify $h(3/8) < 1585/5952$ and $h(2/3) < 1585/5952$, we can conclude $\sigma^2(0, b) \leq h(b) < \sigma^2(0, 16/31)$ outside of $(3/8, 2/3)$. Therefore we have proved $(\Sigma^*)^2 = 1585/5952$.

Finally, we calculate $\sigma^2(1/32, 17/32)$. Since

$$\tilde{V}(3/32, 19/32, 1/32 + t, 17/32 + t) = \begin{cases} t + 3/16 & (t \leq 1/16), \\ -t + 5/16 & (t \geq 1/16), \end{cases}$$

we have $\sigma^2(1/32, 17/32) = 103/384$ and hence $\Sigma^2 \geq 103/384 > 1585/5952$. Therefore $\Sigma > \Sigma^*$.

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